Price Stabilization Fund

839. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to stop any further rise in the prices of essential commodities;

(b) whether Government propose to create a separate Price Stabilization Fund; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Containment of inflation remains high on the agenda of the Government, as inflation hurts everybody, particularly the poor whose incomes are not indexed to prices. Anti-inflationary policies of the Government include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, rationalization of excise and import duties of selected essential commodities so that there is no undue burden on the poor, effective supply-demand management of essential items through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening the public distribution system.

(b) There is no such proposal with the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Increase in prices of edible items

† 840. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the year 2004-05, the prices of edible items have risen;

(b) if so, the average increase at national level;

(c) whether it is also a fact that at different places of the country a wide-gap in this increase has been noticed; and

(d) if so, the places where this increase was the maximum and when it was the minimum and the reasons for this maximum and minimum increase?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.